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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 DPW-01 SAJ-01

SR-02 AID-20 ORM-03 DRC-01 /166 W
---------- 123953
O R 181200Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3043
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL UDORN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
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DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 09950

C O R R E C T ED C O P Y LINES 2 3 AND 4 OMITTED ON
ORIGINAL TRANSMISSION

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - SEPTEMBER 18, 1973

GENERAL

1. THERE WAS LITTLE PROGRESS BUT CONSIDERABLE MANEUVERING
THIS WEEK ON THE MILITARY, POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL
FRONTS AS ALL PARTIES PREPARED FOR TESTS TO COME. AT
KOMPONG CHAM, FANK FORCES BEAT OFF A STILL TENACIOUS ENEMY
WHILE MOVING TO RETAKE KEY POINTS ON THE
CITY'S OUTSKIRTS. CLOSER TO PHNOM PENH, FANK CONTINUED
TO POSITION FORCES FOR LONG STYMIED OPERATIONS TO CLEAR
ROUTES 4 AND 5 AND FOR AN EFFORT TO REOPEN NEWLY CUT ROUTE 1.
WHILE GRUNK/FUNK CROWED OVER ITS ALGIERS SUCCESS, THE GKR
READIED ITSELF FOR A SHOWDOWN AT THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
WHERE IT NOW SEEMS TO HAVE AT LEAST A MAJORITY OF THE
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE FAVORABLE TO SEATING ITS DELEGATION.
ON THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE, CAUTIOUS OPENING STEPS WERE
TAKEN IN WHAT MAY VERY WELL BECOME DRAWN OUT NEGOTIATIONS
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TO PREVENT A CRISIS ON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S
SPECIAL POWERS.

INTERNAL POLITICAL:

2. PRESIDENT LON NOL BEGAN THIS WEEK TO SOUND OUT
POLITICAL LEADERS ON STEPS TO BE TAKEN WHEN THE SIX-MONTH
SPECIAL POWERS GRANTED BY PARLIAMENT TO THE OGVERNMENT EXPIRE

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ON OCTOBER 23. AT ISSUE WERE WHETHER PARLIAMENT SHOULD
BE ALLOWED TO RESUME ITS LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS AS WELL AS
WHETHER AND HOW THE PRESENT CABINET SHOULD BE CHANGED.
ALL PARTIES SEEM NOW AGREED ON THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE HIGH
POLITICAL COUNCIL AND TO AVERT A POLITICAL CRISIS.
A GOOD PART OF THE SIX WEEKS REMAINING OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
MANDATE MAY WELL BE REQUIRED, HOWEVER, TO WORK OUT WAYS TO
ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES.

3. ALTHOUGH CONSENSUS IS GROWING THAT THE REPUBLIC'S
SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON MORE TROOPS, POLITICAL LEADERS CONTINUE
RELUCTANT TO MOVE TOWARD SOLVING FANK'S LACK OF MANPOWER.
UNDER CONSIDERATION NOW IS A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO EN-
COURAGE VOLUNTEERING BY INCREASING BENEFITS TO THE GENERAL RESERVE
(INTERVENTION UNITS); TO REASSIGN TO COMBAT UNITS THE LEGION OF
EMBUSQUE WHO GLUT MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AND CIVILIAN MINISTRIES;
AND TO IMPLEMENT THE DRAFT LAW MORE EFFECTIVELY.

EXTERNAL:

4. THE GKR IS NOW ASSEMBLING IN NEW YORK VIRTUALLY ALL
OF ITS TOP DIPLOMATS AND ABLEST ENGLISH-SPEAKING POLITICAL
LEADERS FOR THE CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE EXPECTEBXG . &47,(-,$
4:5 "NON-ALIGNED" ALLIES. IN THE GKR'S FAVOR WAS A JAPANESE
DECISION TO ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP ON THE ASSEMBLY'S CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE, WHICH NOW SEEMS TO LEAN TOWARDS THE GKR WITH AT
LEASXA5 OF 9 VOTES. MEANWHILE IN PHNOM PENH DOCUMENTATION
WAS BEING PREPARED TO EXPLOIT THE FAILURE AND BRUTALITY OF
FUNK'S PRE-UNGA SPECTACULAR AT KOMPONG CHAM.

5. IN THE FRENCH/PRC JOINT COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDING POMPIDOU'S
VISIT, BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE CAMBODIAN
ISSUE SHOULD BE SETTLED BY THE KHMER WITHOUT FOREIGN
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INTERVENTION. THE CHINESE, HOWEVER, REITERATED SUPPORT FOR
SIHANOUK, GRUNK, AND THE EXILED PRINCE'S FIVE POINTS.

6. DOUC RASY, GKR AMBASSADOR TO LONDON, RECEIVED AGREMENT
AS THE KHMER REPUBLIC'S AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK. HE WAS CO-
OPTED TO JOIN THE KHMER UNGA DELEGATION WHEN FOREIGN
MINISTER LONG BORET PASSED THROUGH ENGLAND. COMMENT:
INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE, DOUC RASY IS A SPLENDID ADDITION
TO THE GKR DELEGATION.

GRUNK/FUNK

7. THE FIVE-POINT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON
CAMBODIA: (A) REAFFIRMED TOTAL SUPPORT FOR PRINCE SIHANOUK'S
MARCH 23, 1970 FIVE-POINTS; (B) CONDEMNED ACTS OF AGGRESSION,

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PARTICULARLY U.S. BOMBARDMENTS, AGAINST THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA; (C) URGED THE U.S. TO CEASE "ACTS OF AGGRESSION" AGAINST CAMBODIA, INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PARTICULARLY ALL AID TO THE PHNOM PENH REGIME INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL OF ITS MILITARY PERSONNEL AND OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES ENGAGED IN CAMBODIA; (D) REQUESTED ALL NATIONS TO EXTEND OFFICIAL RECOGNITION TO GRUNK AS THE ONLY LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA; (E) REAFFIRMED SOLIDARITY WITH GRUNK ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AND FIRM SUPPORT FOR IT IN THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. COMMENT: THE CLANDESTINE RADIO HAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO GLOATING OVER GRUNK'S NON-ALIGNED VICTORY. IT HAS NOT YET MENTIONED THE UPCOMING UNGA STRUGGLE.

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7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
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ECONOMIC

9. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN BANGKOK THE GKR DELEGATION SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED A CONTRACT WITH THE RTG FOR 12,500 M/T OF RICE (BROKENS). LOADING IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 20 IN BANGKOK. THE GKR WILL ATTEMPT TO COMPLETE A CONTRACT FOR A SECOND 12,500 M/T IN EARLY OCTOBER, AT WHICH TIME THE THAIS EXPECT THERE WILL BE MORE BROKENS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT.

10. AS OF SEPTEMBER 15TH THERE WERE 10,676 M/T OF RICE AND PADDY (IN RICE EQUIVALENT) IN PHNOM PENH WAREHOUSES AND APPROXIMATELY 2,200 M/T OF RICE IN KOMPONG SOM. THESE STOCKS TOGETHER WITH EXPECTED ARRIVALS OF 17,500 M/T OF RICE FROM THAILAND (5,000 M/T FROM THE LAST PURCHASE PLUS 12,500 M/T OF THAI AND JAPANESE RICE WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO MEET DEMAND UNTIL DECEMBER WHEN SHIPMENTS OF PL 480 RICE ARE EXPECTED.

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11. IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO INCREASED REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL RELIEF BROUGHT ABOUT THE INSURGENT ATTACKS ON KOMPONG CHAM AND OTHER MILITARY OPERATIONS, TWO 200-BED PREPACKAGED DISASTER HOSPITALS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN BY AIR FROM THE UNITED STATES.

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MILITARY

12. THE MILITARY SITUATION AT KOMPONG CHAM CONTINUED TO IMPROVE. ENEMY FORCES TURNED FROM GROUND ATTACKS TO SPORADIC SHELLINGS OF THE CITY. GOVERNMENT FORCES EXPANDED THEIR DEFENSES OUTWARD AND ELIMINATED THE ENEMY PRESENCE FROM THE CITY PROPER; HOWEVER, FIGHTING CONTINUES NEAR THE UNIVERSITY AND AT THE AIRFIELD. APPROXIMATELY 25 PERCENT OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL HAS BEEN DESTROYED AND AN ESTIMATED 60 PERCENT DAMAGED. INDISCRIMINATE ENEMY SHELLING AND STREET FIGHTING HAVE CAUSED SEVERAL THOUSAND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND CREATED A SUBSTANTIAL NEW REFUGEE PROBLEM. IN ADDITION, THE ENEMY FORCIBLY LED AN ESTIMATED (BY FANK) 10,000-15,000 CIVILIANS AWAY FROM THE CITY TO INSURGENT CONTROLLED AREAS. A CAPTURED ENEMY DOCUMENT REVEALED PLANS TO BE IN FULL CONTROL OF THE CITY BY SEPT. 10, ALTHOUGH THE INSURGENTS SUFFERED A MAJOR SET-BACK, THEY STILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT FORCES AROUND THE CITY, AND WILL PROBABLY RENEW THEIR OFFENSIVE.

13. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, INSURGENT FORCES INCREASED ACTIVITY AGAINST MAJOR LINES OF COMMUNICATION LEADING INTO PHNOM PENH. RTE 1 WAS CUT 12 KM SOUTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL ON SEPT. 16 FOLLOWING AN ATTACK ON A COMPANY-SIZE POSITION.WEST OF PHNOM PENH, CLEARING OPERATIONS REOPENED RTE 4 TO KOMPONG SOM ON SEPT. 18.

14. RTE 5 HAS BEEN CUT SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHHNANG SINCE SEPTEMBER 6; AND FANK CLEARING OPERATIONS HAVE MADE LITTLE PROGRESS.

15. ON SEPTEMBER 14 THE TOWN OF KOMPONG SPEU RECEIVED A HEAVY ARTILLERY AND MORTAR ATTACK. THE CITY IS ADEQUATELY DEFENDED AND A MAJOR ENEMY EFFORT AGAINST IT IS NOT EXPECTED.

16. IN PHNOM PENH, TWO PLASOIQUE CHARGES DETONATED AT TWO SEPARATE LOCATIONS ALONG THE CITY'S WATERFRONT ON SEPT. 15. FIFTEEN PERSONS WERE WOUNDED IN THE INCIDENTS WHICH MARKED THE FIRST TERRORIST ACTIONS IN

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THE CAPITAL SINCE MID-AUGUST.

17. PRESSURE INCREASED AGAINST VIHEAR SUOR (ABOUT 30 KM NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH), THE MOST IMPORTANT AND LAST REMAINING OUTPOST IN THE TONLE TOCH AREA EAST OF THE MEKONG.

18. MEKONG RIVER RESUPPLY ACTIVITIES CONTINUED WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT KOMPONG CHAM AND BROUGHT LOADS OF WOUNDED AND REFUGEES BACK TO PHNOM PENH BY DAILY CONVOY FOR THE PAST TEN DAYS, WITHOUT LOSS OF A SHIP. ON SEPT. 13 A CONVOY CONSISTING OF A CARGO, 5 POL SHIPS AND AN AMMO BARGE REACHED PHNOM PENH SAFELY; HARASSMENT EN ROUTE WAS MINOR.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS ENDERS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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